



June 2001

## Munitions Directorate gets a new Senior Reservist

by Rex Swenson, Munitions Directorate Public Affairs

EGLIN AFB, Fla. — Air Force Reserve Lt. Col. John McKeeman recently became the senior reservist for the Air Force Research Laboratory Munitions Directorate (AFRL/MN) replacing Col. Mike McClendon.

McKeeman came from AFRL's Sensors Directorate at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, where he was a program manager for infrared missile warning systems.

"My vision is to fully integrate Munitions Directorate reservists into the active force by injecting highly qualified personnel into the full spectrum of the munitions development process, in addition to providing real-time support to the active force during deployments and exercises," said McKeeman.

The AFRL reserve program is supported by the Individual Mobilization Augmentee (IMA) program in which reservists report directly to individual full-time supervisors in the laboratory.

"Within AFRL's Munitions Directorate, our reservists are strategically placed under supervisors in all three product divisions: Ordnance, Advanced Guidance, and Assessment and Demonstrations," said the colonel. This allows reservists to directly impact the entire munitions development process from concept definition, to modeling and simulation, through prototype development and test, he explained.

To effectively meet the wide range of challenges presented by munitions development, Munitions Directorate reservists are seasoned and highly skilled professionals; averaging more than 14 years experience, with 80 percent holding advanced degrees. Most of the Munitions Directorate reservists work in private industry for the technology sector and bring a diverse set of technical skills as well as an external corporate perspective with them.

"By leveraging their unique civilian skills and training, AFRL/MN reservists inject added value into the development of next generation munitions at minimal cost to the directorate," said



**SENIOR RESERVIST**— Lt. Col. John McKeeman, AF Reserves (left) and James Moore program manager for P-LOCAAS look at the ESAF tester McKeeman designed and built for the P-LOCAAS. The ESAF tester checks the function of the Electronic Safe and Arm Fuzes for the P-LOCAAS warhead. (USAF photo by Rex Swenson)

McKeeman. "For example, two of our reservists have backgrounds in munitions testing. When the active force had last minute staffing problems supporting a test deployment for LOCAAS [Low Cost Autonomous Attack System], the reservists volunteered. They completed their annual tours at the test site in Grayling, Mich. By using reservists, the cost of hiring contractors was avoided and the testing was completed on schedule," he said.

While the reservists complete tasks for their individual supervisors, they also pool their talents to complete team-oriented tasks. This enables them to broaden their skills, network with their peers, and exposes them to other technology areas

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within the directorate. Recently, three Munitions Directorate reservists came on active duty to support the AFRL operational readiness exercise. The reservists were an integral part of the team and augmented the active force that was required to support the exercise. While supporting the exercise, they used their spare time to review more than 30 Small Business Innovative Research proposals.

“By using the technical skills of the reservists, the proposal reviews were completed on schedule and alleviated the work load from the active force,” said McKeeman.

“While the reserves augment the active force for exercises and deployments, we also bring a unique set of civilian skills to AFRL/MN,” he said. “For instance, most of the Munitions Directorate reservists have programming skills and I have a hardware background. Together, we are building system that will check the function of the electronic safe and arm fuzes for the LOCAAS warhead.”

According to McKeeman, this software and hardware system will validate that the LOCAAS fuzes delivered by the contractor meets the requirements defined in the interface control document. Although this is a requirement for the LOCAAS program, no funding was set aside to build this system. So the reserves are building the system at no cost to the Munitions Directorate.

“I’m designing the hardware, two reservists are writing the software and we’ll do hardware/software integration at MN this spring,” he said.

“We could not execute on as many projects as we do without the infectious enthusiasm of the AFRL/MN director, Col. Thomas Masiello. He is heavily involved with our reserve program and provides constant encouragement as well as challenging, high visibility projects for the reservists,” said McKeeman.

The AFRL/MN reserve program has doubled in size since October and the colonel has applications from an additional six prospective reservists. He hopes to add a total of 12 reservists this calendar year including three enlisted positions. @